

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract. A clean copy of the amended Abstract is presented on a separate page at the end of this Amendment.

This invention describes a new A method and system for delivering data over a network to a large number of clients, which may be suitable for building large-scale Video-on-Demand (VOD) systems. In current VOD systems, the client may suffer from a long latency before starting to receive the requested data that is capable of providing sufficient interactive functions, or the reverse, without significantly increasing the network load. The method utilizes two groups of data streams, one responsible for minimizing latency while the other one provides the required interactive functions. In the anti-latency data group, uniform, or non-uniform or hierarchical staggered stream intervals may be used. The system being realized based on this invention may have a relatively small startup latency while users may enjoy most of the interactive functions that are typical of video recorders including fast-forward, forward-jump, and so on. Furthermore, this invention may also be able to the system can maintain the number of data streams, and therefore the bandwidth, required.